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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 8 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan concerning the decision adopted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on 6 August 1997 banning the export of anti-personnel mines, including the re-export and transit thereof (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 71 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTYANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

* A/52/150 and Corr.1.

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ANNEX

Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan on 11 August 1997

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is authorized to state that the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted a decision on 6 August 1997 proclaiming a ban on the export of anti-personnel mines, including the re-export and transit thereof.

Kazakhstan shares the international community's growing concern at the vast numbers of victims caused throughout the world by the use of anti-personnel mines. At present some 110 million mines in more than 70 countries continue to maim and kill civilians every day. It is for this reason that anti-personnel mines have been called "delayed-action weapons of mass destruction".

This serious problem of global significance can only be solved through joint international action to limit the use of, and access to, anti-personnel mines and, ultimately, to ban their use altogether.

This unilateral moratorium by Kazakhstan supports the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and constitutes an expression of Kazakhstan's commitment to strengthening international peace and security.